

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

This replacement paragraph is submitted to clarify the specification. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced into the application by way of the substitute paragraphs.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 7, with the following paragraph:**

According to the invention this is achieved with an apparatus ~~comprising the features of patent claim 1~~ for removing coverings laid on even surfaces having a support frame for mounting driving wheels and for accommodating a motor and a gear for driving the driving wheels. The apparatus also has a motor-driven separating knife. The invention is characterized in that at least one loosely rotatable support element is arranged on the support frame parallel to the driving wheels.